

Filed for intro on 01/14/98

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 441  
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to offer congratulations to Stephen Whitfield Bailey upon the occasion of his forty-fifth birthday celebration.

WHEREAS, attainment of the venerable age of forty-five signals, if not exactly the death knell, then most assuredly the end of youth and the near beginning of old age; it is therefore fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should recognize our distinguished citizens and friends who are experiencing such milestones in their esteemed lives; and

WHEREAS, it is the age of forty-five – five years passed the benchmark age of forty and only five years away from the half-century mark – that we often associate with rapid deterioration of the human mind and body: a time when one's eyesight falters, when one's bones begin to creak, and when rising to one's feet from a sitting position occasions numerous grunts and an undue amount of effort; and

WHEREAS, the age of forty-five truly marks the beginning of the autumn of one's years, that time of life when one's remaining hair, like the mountains of Aspen in the summer, are not so graciously sprinkled with white, a time when one's memory tries mightily to fulfill its function, but only produces a feeble flicker of recognition as synapses fail miserably in their attempt to connect and provide that elusive date, telephone number or wife's name; and

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WHEREAS, it is with these encouraging thoughts in mind that we wish one of our state's most distinguished citizens and our friend, Stephen Whitfield Bailey, a most joyous forty-fifth birthday; and

WHEREAS, a Knoxville native, Stephen spent seemingly endless, fun-loving, yet studious days as a student at the Webb School and the University of the South; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Bailey is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, hence the name of his successful company, Volunteer Lumber Sales; and

WHEREAS, in this his forty-fifth year, our good friend Stephen is fortunate to have such a talented and supportive staff at Volunteer Lumber Sales who may dutifully carry on his responsibilities, as Stephen is now only a few years away from Medicare eligibility and full-time membership in the AARP; and

WHEREAS, Stephen is a member of the Chapter of St. John's Cathedral, endeavoring to live an exemplary Christian life; the congregation is only hopeful that after reaching this milestone in his venerable life, Stephen will be able to carry on his duties as acolyte, a service to the Cathedral which he performed ably in his youth; and

WHEREAS, as Stephen approaches the downside of his fifth decade, he remains an avid supporter of Knoxville youth sports, an endeavor that has earned him the title of "Little League Coach Extraordinaire" and in which he will likely continue to be active and productive, as his health permits; and

WHEREAS, always one to support other businesses in the Knoxville community, Stephen Whitfield Bailey has been a distinguished multi-year recipient of Cherokee Distributing Company's "Customer of the Year" award, prompting proprietors of the local company to consider renaming several of the vehicles in their fleet in his honor, as Stephen has more than consumed a fleet of Cherokee's products; and

WHEREAS, known throughout East Tennessee as a civic-minded individual and community leader, Stephen has been lauded for his active participation in the Backdoor

roundtable, a forum that is known for producing intelligent, thought-provoking, and forward-thinking concepts and a place where such profound ideas are energetically debated by Stephen and his Backdoor colleagues on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, Stephen is fortunate to have the wonderful Ann Haslam Bailey as his wife and the steady Pilot in his life; the Baileys are the proud parents of four loving children: Whitfield Bailey, Bryan Bailey, Ann Clark Bailey and Nic Haslam Bailey; and

WHEREAS, one's forty-fifth birthday is indeed a monumental occasion, in the same sense that the sinking of the Titanic was a momentous occasion, and the members of this Body wish our friend Stephen all of the delights of upper-middle age; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby offer our congratulations and/or commiserations to Stephen Whitfield Bailey on the occasion of his forty-fifth birthday and extend to him our best wishes for many happy returns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.